- Agendas / Decisions
- News Releases
- Traffic Detours
- Speakers Bureau
- E-Mail Notification
- Smoke-Free Saskatoon

NEWS RELEASES

For Immediate Release: August 22, 2007

MO07-362

CITY AND EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS ASK RESIDENTS TO TAKE IN STUDENT BOARDERS THIS FALL

Mayor Donald Atchison, along with Peter MacKinnon (President, University of Saskatchewan), Dr. Robert McCulloch (President and CEO, SIAST), and Mr. Ray Ahenakew (President, SIIT) today called on Saskatoon residents to take in student boarders to help alleviate the student housing shortage this fall.

Currently, rental accommodations in Saskatoon are scarce, and the situation will be heightened when a portion of the approximate 23,000 post-secondary students need affordable accommodations. An immediate solution is to have homeowners open up their doors to students as boarders. Residents owning a house are allowed up to five people as boarders; those with duplexes are allowed up to two people per side as boarders. Boarders are defined as having their own room, but sharing facilities such as a kitchen, bathroom, and laundry area. Homeowners do not need to take out permits, pay fees, or renovate their homes to take in boarders.

"We felt that this was a quick solution that people can do right away to help a student who needs somewhere to live for eight to nine months," said Mayor Donald Atchison. "By taking in a boarder, residents can help the student focus on their studies instead of worrying about where to live, and it helps the homeowner with the mortgage payment. It's a win-win situation."

The City of Saskatoon will be launching an advertising campaign shortly, encouraging residents to take in boarders. Ads, a web page, utility bill inserts, and flyers to neighbourhoods near educational institutions will promote the benefits of having a boarder.

"The University of Saskatchewan is working diligently to ensure viable solutions are readily available to address student housing needs, both short term, prior to the start of the academic year, and in the longer term," said Peter MacKinnon, President, University of Saskatchewan.

"SIAST students are a hard-working, highly motivated group. As grads, they will fix our cars, take care of our children, build our homes, run our medical tests and perform myriad other services for society. If they need a little extra help this year with affordable housing, I hope they can count on the residents of Saskatoon to come through," said Dr. Robert McCulloch, President and CEO, SIAST.

2008-04091/

"Approximately 20% of our students are struggling to find appropriate affordable accommodation. Access to housing, financial support and daycare are three major barriers that our students face. Unfortunately some students are deferring their education as a result of these barriers. Our partnership with the province in establishing SIIT as a Center of Excellence for Aboriginal Post-Secondary Education and Training will include a further examination of how to address these barriers. Our economy absolutely cannot afford to lose young people--we need to find immediate solutions to the housing crisis," said Ray Ahenakew, President, Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies.

Homeowners wishing to take in a student boarder can call the student housing registries set up by the University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU), SIAST Student Affairs, and SIIT to list their accommodations:

- USSU Housing Registry:

1. The University of Saskatchewan Students' Union (USSU) Housing Registry is a listing of suites, apartments, houses and rooms available to rent across the City. Search by location, number of rooms, roommates, etc., at http://www.ussu.ca/services/housingregistry.shtml or call 1-900-451-3390 to register your accommodation (a $13 fee applies for a two-week listing).
2. The USSU Boarders Registry is an online listing of available boarding options. There is no charge to list boarding accommodations, or to search from those available. For details, visit http://online.ussu.ca/boarders/.

- SIAST Kelsey Campus Housing Registry:

To register your accommodation, call 933-6445 or visit www.gosiast.com. There is no charge to list your accommodation.

- SIIT/Saskatoon Campus Housing Registry:

To register your accommodation, call 477-9238/9325 or visit www.siit.sk.ca. There is no charge to list your accommodation.

Homeowners must declare the rental income from having a boarder, but can claim some deductions. Residents are encouraged to check with their accountant on the details.

Saskatoon Transit operates 17 routes, of which 13 go directly to the University (so students don't have to transfer), 5 to the SIAST Kelsey Campus, and since SIIT is downtown, all routes are accessible (either through the Downtown Transit Terminal or routes a block or two away), so students can live virtually anywhere in Saskatoon and still be able to get to school. University of Saskatchewan students also have the U-PASS (universal buss pass) this year, which makes taking the bus even more economical.

-30-

Media, for more information:

Mayor Donald Atchison
City of Saskatoon
975-3202

President Peter MacKinnon

University of Saskatchewan
966-6919

Dr. Robert McCulloch
President & CEO, SIAST
933-5376

Mr. Ray Ahenakew
President, SIIT
244-4444

Back to prev